

COUNTRY GERMANY	REPORT NO. E-56C-6751-B	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Uranium Mining, PEVEK		
AREA REPORTED ON PEVEK, USSR	FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW	
DATE OF REPORT 23-25 Feb 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Apr 49 - May 50	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) HALBERT H. ACKER, Lt. Col., USAF	SOURCE 270573	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)		
<p>I. PREAMBLE:</p> <p>While interned in Russian Penal Labor Camp "KRASNIY ARMEYSK I", located approx. 250 km SE of PEVEK (6943N-17015W) from Apr 49 - May 50, SOURCE worked as general laborer in uranium mines and ore sorting plants. Closely guarded in camp and while at work. Info based on personal observations unless otherwise indicated.</p> <p>II. URANIUM MINING, PEVEK.</p> <p>Reference is made to Incl. 1, a Memory Sketch of the Area of PEVEK (6943N-17015W).</p> <p>Between Apr and Jun 49 SOURCE was transferred by rail from KUYBYSHEV (5311N-5007E) to SOVETSKAYA GAVAN (4859N-14018E) where, in July 49, exact date not recalled, he and 10 fellow German PWs and approx. 5,000 Russian penal laborers were taken aboard the Sov. Diesel ship "KOLKHOSNIK" (SOURCE's spelling), displacement and dimensions unknown, vague recollection of 1 short funnel, and kept down in the holds. SOURCE observed an unknown number of ZIS trucks of the type 151 and tractors on deck. Heard from Russian penal laborers that unidentified cargo had been taken aboard earlier. Ship sailed a few days later without anyone of the prisoners knowing their destination. SOURCE repeatedly heard roar of A/C engines, and was told by Russian penal laborers that the vessel was convoyed by submarines and seaplanes to prevent mutiny and seizure of the ship by the prisoners. Russian penal laborers related that a few years ago an unspecified Sov. vessel was seized by prisoners and safely steered to ALASKA (US). After 8 days' voyage ship tied up at port of BUKHTA PROVIDENIYA (6422N-17315W) to take fresh water and approx. 30 Russian penal laborers aboard. No cargo was unloaded. Prisoners not allowed to enter deck; thru aperture in ceiling of hold SOURCE observed steep rocks. Left BUKHTA PROVIDENIYA after approx. 20 hrs. Rumors spread among prisoners that ship was sailing around Ecape of CHUKOTSKIY (6600N-17400W) peninsula. Crew composed of Russian civilians, number unknown, which led prisoners to conclusion that the "KOLKHOSNIK" was a merchant ship. Unknown number of Sov. guards, armed with tommyguns, pistols. After departure from BUKHTA PROVIDENIYA ship was often delayed by ice floe and icebergs, occasionally by intense fog and blizzards. 10 days from departure in BUKHTA PROVIDENIYA ship tied up at makeshift wooden pier in what later evolved to be PEVEK, located in a large Bay, Pt. 1. Prisoners marched to Main Camp, Pt. 2, located 2.5 km S of unknown number of wooden Storage Bldgs, Pt. 4. Main camp enclosed by 3 m high barbed wire fence, had 8-10 wooden barracks, 14 x 6 x 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INCL.</p> <p>Memory Sketch of the Area of PEVEK, p. 14</p>		
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AF USAF Wshn Ger 103-10M-5200

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x 4 m each, tarpaper roofs, housing approx. 1,000 Russian penal laborers who worked in the harbor area. Separate enclosure in main camp with approx. 100 large tents, each for approx. 50 men, for the 5,000 newcomers. All penal laborers and the 10 German PWs were deloused and then issued padded clothing, shoes, fur caps. After 5 days' stay in main camp prisoners distributed to approx. 8 mining camps. SOURCE and approx. 30 other Russian penal laborers taken by 3-ton ZIS truck, guarded by 2 Sov. soldiers, armed with tommyguns, to Camp "KRASNIY ARMEYSK I", Point 15. Trip lasted 7 hrs; average speed of truck 30 km; estimated distance from Bay, Pt. 1, 200-250 km. Traveled along Road, Pt. 3, five m wide, partly on rocky ground, partly surfaced with crushed stone or gravel, in fair condition, passed Lake, Pt. 5, dimensions unknown; hearsay from fellow prisoners that ice of lake was used for industrial purposes in winter. From Main Camp, Pt. 2, and Road, Pt. 3, SOURCE observed Thermal Power Plant, Pt. 6, several wood and stone bldgs, layout or dimensions unknown, approx. 600 m N of Road, Pt. 1, 3 km NE of Main Camp, Pt. 2; Motor Pool, Pt. 7, several wood or stone bldgs, located approx. 200 m SW of Thermal Power Plant, Pt. 6. No details. After 45 minutes' ride SOURCE observed Side Road, Pt. 8, same structural details as Road, Pt. 3; later SOURCE heard from fellow prisoners that road led N to a Mining Camp called "KUYVEYEM" (SOURCE's spelling), location unknown. After 3 and 4 1/2 hrs ride, respectively, from Main Camp, Pt. 2, truck passed 2 Road Maintenance Camps, Pt. 9, each consisting of several wooden barracks, which served as billets for maintenance crew, food depot, and truck supply station. Parking facilities for trucks. E of second Road Maintenance Camp terrain rose from hitherto level or slightly undulating ground to a series of Mountain Ridges, Pt. 10, max. elevation estimated at 800 m above sea-level; Road, Pt. 3, traversed mountains in many sharp bends. After approx. 1 1/2 hrs ride thru mountainous region road descended and passed thru level Tundra, Pt. 11, where SOURCE observed a large herd of caribou attended by Eskimos; then hit upon Side Road, Pt. 12, same structural details as Road, Pt. 3, which according to prisoners' hearsay, led to so-called North Camp, location unknown. Seven hrs after the outset (1 hr after again passing Mountains, Pt. 17, max. elevation approx. 800 m, truck turned into Side Road, Pt. 13, same structural details as Road, Pt. 3, 200 m long to Camp KRASNIY ARMEYSK I, Pt. 15, enclosed by 3 m high barbed wire, 10-12 wooden barracks for approx. 800 men who arrived on same day by truck from Main Camp, Pt. 2. Former inmates of camp had partly been returned to unknown destination by ship a few weeks earlier in anticipation of 5,000 men relief group. Wooden Road Bridge, Pt. 14, 4 x 4 m, arched deck, 1 m clearance, spanned Creek, Pt. 16, 1.5 m wide, E-W flow. Camp "KRASNIY ARMEYSK II", Pt. 18, located approx. 1.5 km SE of Camp "KRASNIY ARMEYSK I", Pt. 15, had 6-8 wooden barracks housing 600-700 men. Both camps operated approx. 20 uranium mines scattered over an area of approx. 3 km in diam.; usually inclined tunnels of varying cross-sections, length 20-30 m, dug into sides of mountain slopes at various altitudes. No shoring used as ground was frozen solid in winter (Oct-May); no mining in summer because lack of frost caused tunnels to cave in. Each tunnel supplied with compressed air hoses, electricity, electric drills, pneumatic hammers, crowbars, and spades; operated in two 12-hr shifts by each 10 men. Frequent blasting. Ore pebble size, pitch black, glittering, heavy, pried loose along with adhering mud, not sorted underground but shovelled into primitive containers made from oil drums cut lengthwise into halves, mounted hollow side up onto makeshift steel runners, drawn out by windlass like sledge along icy surface of tunnel floor, dropped thru wooden chute lined with sheet

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Air Force Pig Plant-Wiesbaden, Ger.-92-40M-4561

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metal onto ancient mine cars, pulled up by windlass to ore mounds for sorting and washing in summer, when no mining was possible. Frequently, samples were taken from deposit in tunnels by Sov. soldier specialists, tested in Laboratory, Pt. 19, a wooden bldg. of irregular shape, overall dimensions 14 x 10 x 5 m, tarpaper roof, equipment not recalled. SOURCE never observed instruments resembling Geiger counters or counting tubes in that area. Laboratory occupied by 1 Sov. civilian specialist and 3 soldier specialists who served as assistants. SOURCE once observed inside of Laboratory and vaguely recalled that ore samples were washed, mixed with unknown ingredients, and weighed - hearsay from soldier specialist that maximum uranium content was 66%. No info, not even approx., on production figures. Ore mounds piled up during winter always located next to ore grading plants (total of 16 such plants in area of Camps, Pts. 15 and 18). During summer months large portion of labor force assigned to these plants which usually consisted of: 1 electric conveyer, 20-30 m long, 1 m wide, and 1 inclined trestle, 20-30 m long, 2-3 m wide, incline covered with smooth planks. Before each washing process, coarse cloth sections placed flat on planks, kept in place by a series of wooden grates with the grooves running perpendicular. Uranium ore transported from ore mounds to chute at lower end of conveyer by heavy tractors equipped with shovel blade in front, carried to top of inclined trestle, thence flushed with water over wooden grates, allowing heavier ore to sink into grooves, waste taken off by flow of water. 2 men on each side of trestle stirred ore with rakes, had to take minute care lest precious uranium be flushed away. When grooves of grates filled to repletion, ore and water supply stopped, grates taken off, uranium deposit scraped from coarse cloths into chute located at lower end of inclined trestle, filled into steel drums resembling oil barrels, taken by truck to Laboratory, Pt. 19, weighed there to 500 kgs per drum, sealed by unknown means, shipped by truck to Bay, Pt. 1, for further shipment by sea to unknown destination. Hearsay from fellow prisoners that usually supply ships took uranium drums aboard on their return trip. Most of mining tools, compressors, and food were of American origin, according to labels. Large scale exploration for uranium during summer months by taking samples from open pits laid out at random all over mountain slopes.

Camps: KRASNIY ARMEYSK I, Point 15, uranium only;
KRASNIY ARMEYSK II, Point 18, uranium only;
SOUTH, location unknown, tungsten and uranium, mined in different mines, according to hearsay from German PWs on return trip. Identical size barrels containing tungsten were 50% heavier than uranium. Approx. 800 men.
NORTH, for location see Side Road, Pt. 12, uranium and unspecified dark green mineral were shipped unprocessed by A/C to unknown destination. Hearsay from fellow prisoners that emergency airfield was located in valley approx. 20 km E of Bay, Pt. 1. Approx. 800 men.
KUYVEYEM, for location refer to Side Road, Pt. 8. Only uranium mining. Approx. 800 men.
RUDNIKI, location unknown. Unspecified mineral mined there according to hearsay from fellow prisoners.
MAIN CAMP, Pt. 2, no mining or processing. Loading of uranium ore and tungsten in steel drums onto ships. No details.

Norms: in winter fixed at a certain, unrecalled, number of cu.m. per work group per shift, in summer at unknown weight unit per work group per shift. No

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By WV NARA Date 9/4/01

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recollection of wages. Maximum paid out to worker per months: 200 rubles. Little opportunity to buy additional food.

General: Very poor living conditions, poor food, lack of fuel for heating living quarters. Fatal lack of vitamins forced government to exchange labor force every year. Many deaths due to scurvy, caries, etc. German PWs not allowed to write or receive letters. Few Russian penal laborers had privilege of writing letters. Electricity for mines supplied by Diesel generating sets, capacity unknown. Hearsay from fellow prisoners that electric power line was to be constructed, between Thermal Power Plant, Pt. 6, and mining areas.

Inspection: In Mar 50, PEVEK mining area was inspected by Sov. general, name unknown, 1.70 m tall, 45-50, broad-shouldered, oval face, reddish complexion, grey at the temples; shoulderboards gold-braided, red stripes along sides of trousers. Stayed in PEVEK area for 8-10 days, arrived and left by unknown A/C; was accompanied by 3-4 Sov. officers, ranks unknown. SOURCE met same general on return trip at unknown airfield located between PEVEK and MAGADAN (5934N-15048E). No info on unit and branch of service.

Return Trip: On Apr 18, 50, departure from ice-bound PEVEK Bay, Pt. 1, in a 2-engined DOUGLAS, together with 18 other German PWs; Russian civilian crew of 4 men, 1 Sov. soldier guard armed with tommygun. No parachutes issued. At time of take-off, approx. 1700 hrs, 2 A/C seen in bay: one 4-engine transport resembling American B 29, and one 2-engine DOUGLAS. After 4 hours flight, A/C landed at unknown airfield S of PEVEK for 30 minutes, after 2 more hrs landed at MAGADAN airfield. 4 weeks in MAGADAN transit camp, then by IL 12, civilian crew of 5 men, to KHABAROVSK (4830N-13505E) via NIKOLAYEVSK (5309N-14044E); 18 PWs in one A/C guarded by 1 Sov. soldier. From KHABAROVSK airfield to Japanese PW camp, location unknown, for 5 weeks, then by rail to DECTYARKA (5642N-6006E).

for *Halbert H. Acker*
HALBERT H. ACKER
Lt. Col., USAF
Commander
7056th AISS

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